Reservation for SCs

†1419. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has promised to formulate a law concerning implementation of reservation for Scheduled Castes on 16 December, 2008;

(b) whether Government orders concerning equal reservation for Scheduled Castes are not being properly implemented; and

(c) whether this matter would be kept under direct observation of the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Government had introduced a Bill, namely, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill, 2008 in the Rajya Sabha on 22.12.2008, which the House passed on 23.12.2008. The Bill could not be discussed in the Lok Sabha and has since lapsed.

(b) and (c) All the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are implementing reservation for the Scheduled Castes in services as per instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training from time to time. All the appointing authorities are responsible to ensure proper implementation of these instructions.

Functioning of CIC

1420. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reportedly told transparency watchdog, the Central Information Commission (CIC) that it could function only through multiple member benches and not through single or double information commissioners hearing RTI appeal cases;

(b) if so, in what manner Government proposes to dispose of 40,000 cases which are reportedly pending with the CIC when it takes three to six months for an RTI appeal to be heard with CIC; and

(c) whether his Department's direction for 'no single-member bench for info body', would not further slow down disposal of RTI appeal cases, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Right to Information Act, 2005 does not contain any provision regarding constitution of benches. The Central Information Commission, has, therefore, been advised that decisions on the complaints and appeals should be taken by the Central Information Commission as defined in Section 2(b) of the RTI Act, 2005 and not by the Benches of the Commission.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) There were 8924 pending cases in the Central Information Commission as on 01.4.2009. The Government has strengthened the General Information Commission by appointing more Information Commissioners. The Commission has taken steps to increase use of information technology for quick disposal of cases.

Corruption in Government machinery

1421. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Government officials have been found guilty and crores of rupees have been unearthed by the CBI during their raids from their houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken for making Government's administrative machinery free from inefficiency, corruption and lethargy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) CBI conducts searches including offices/houses as part of investigation depending on the facts and circumstances of cases. Details of searches form part of records of individual cases including those registered for amassing of disproportionate assets and no separate centralized record is maintained about the amount recovered during searches.

(c) The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (PC Act) and the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 (CVC) Act) provide for effective investigative machinery into the offences of corruption. The PC Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 have comprehensive provisions for criminalizing bribery and other acts of corruption covering all public servants. The Central Vigilance Commission along with the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Ministries concerned every year draw specific lists of officers of doubtful integrity who are kept under surveillance. The enactment of the Right to Information Act, 2005 as a comprehensive legislation provides an effective mechanism for access to information and disclosure by the authorities to work against any corrupt practices and exploitation.

Corruption cases against bureaucrats

†1422. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vigilance/corruption cases registered against high placed bureaucrats during the last three years;

(b) the number of such officers against whom chargesheets were filed during the said period; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereto?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.